

County Snapshot

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San Benito County is bordered on the north by Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties, on the east by Merced and Fresno counties, and on the south and west by Monterey County.

With a projected population of 82,300 by 2020, San Benito County will experience a steady increase in population over the next twenty years. The gain of new residents is expected to add about 30,000 over this period.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force for the county to be 26,400 with an unemployment rate of 8.1 percent. This is higher than the state's unemployment rate of 5.2 percent.

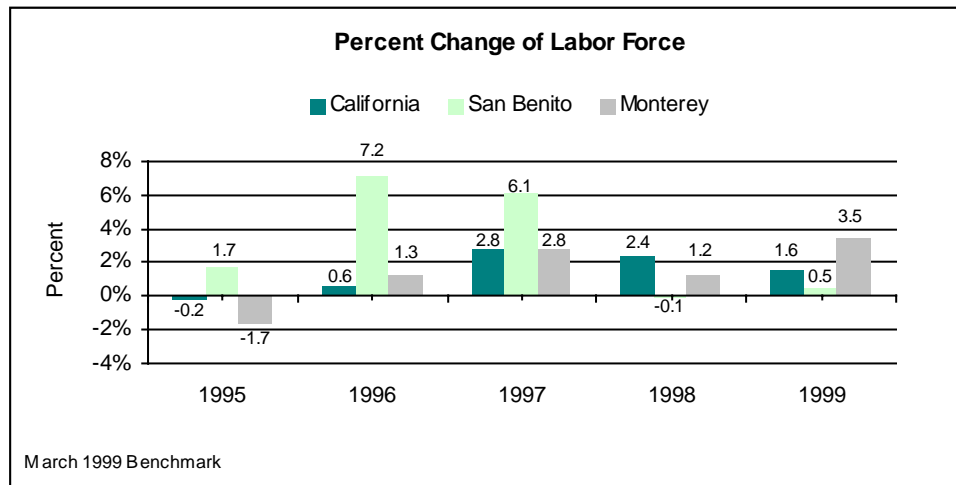
Government is the largest industry in the county, accounting for 18.4 percent of total employment. Other important industry sectors are manufacturing at 14.9 percent, services at 13.8 percent, and agriculture at 13.5 percent.

Construction is one of the fastest growing industries with a projected growth rate of over 60 percent. Other industries expected to increase over the forecast period are manufacturing (28 percent) and retail trade (15.4 percent).

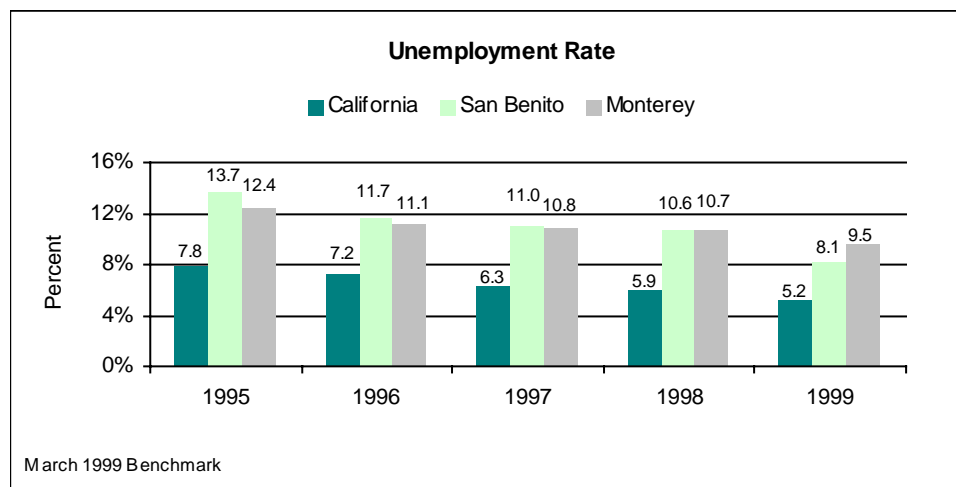
San Benito County's labor market conditions have been steadily improving over the last five years. The county continues to record job growth and declining unemployment rates.

LABOR FORCE

San Benito County's civilian labor force expanded significantly in 1996 with a 7.2 percent growth due, in part, to gains in the manufacturing and trade industries. From 1995 to 1999, the county's civilian labor force increased by 14.3 percent while the labor force in Monterey County increased by 9 percent.

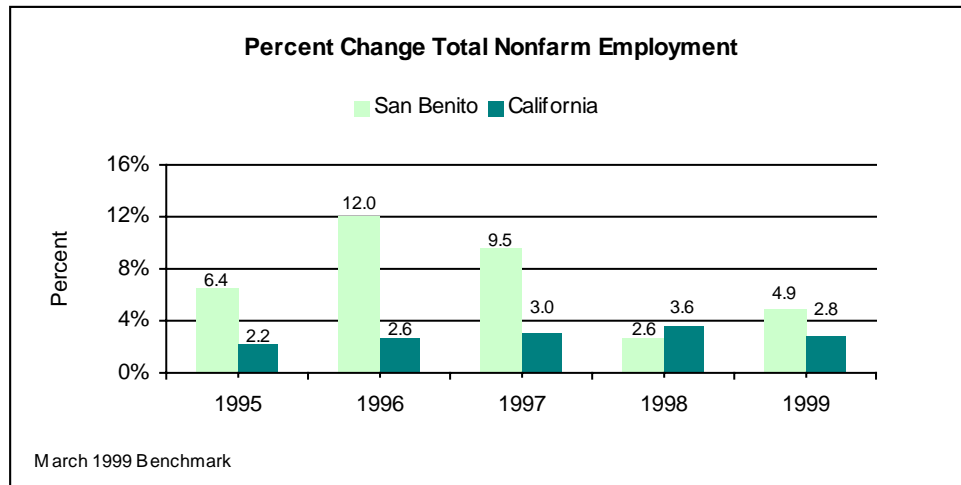


While steadily declining since 1995, unemployment rates for San Benito and Monterey counties have consistently exceeded the unemployment rate for the state. However, the annual average unemployment rate for San Benito County dropped 5.6 percentage points from a high of 13.7 percent in 1995 to 8.1 percent in 1999.

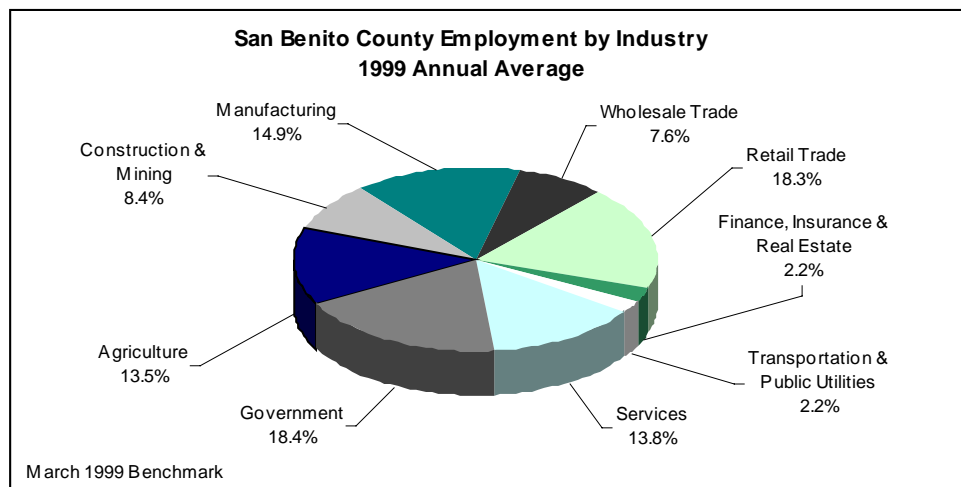


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

San Benito County nonagricultural wage and salary employment has shown consistent growth since 1995, with the greatest year-over change occurring in 1996. Payroll employment gained over 3,000 jobs during this period. The trade sector has accounted for most of the growth.



In 1999, San Benito County employment was dominated by government, retail trade, and manufacturing. It is expected that the county's future, nonagricultural, job growth will be in construction, manufacturing, and retail trade.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. San Benito County is projected to have many employment opportunities in these high turnover occupations.

| Associated Occupations | CONSTRUCTION & MINING 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 61.1% |
|------------------------|--|
| | Carpenters – 110 job openings. Perform the carpentry duties necessary to make or repair wooden structures, structural members, and fixtures and equipment using carpentry tools and woodworking machines. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$14.85 |
| | Structural Metal Workers – 40 job openings. Raise, place, and unite girders, columns, and other structural steel members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$16.38 |
| | General Managers, Top Executives – 30 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$28.08 |
| | Mining, Quarrying, And Oil And Gas Well Drilling Managers – 10 job openings. Plan, organize, direct, control, or coordinate, usually through subordinate supervisory personnel, the operations of mines, quarries, oil or gas wells. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$34.64 |
| | Sales Representatives, Except Retail, Scientific, Related Prods And Serv – 10 job openings. Sell goods or services for wholesalers or manufacturers to businesses or groups of individuals. Solicit orders from established clients or secure new customers. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$22.48 |

| Associated Occupations | MANUFACTURING 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 28.0% |
|------------------------|---|
| | Programmers, Numerical, Tool And Process Control – 10 job openings. Develop numerical control tape programs to control machining or processing of parts by automatic machine tools, equipment, or systems. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$21.49 |
| | Reporters And Correspondents – 10 job openings. Collect and analyze facts about newsworthy events by interview, investigation, or observation. Report and write stories for newspaper, news magazine, radio, or television. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$15.93 |
| | Sales Representatives, Except Retail, Scientific, Related Prods And Serv – 10 job openings. Sell goods or services for wholesalers or manufacturers to businesses or groups of individuals. Solicit orders from established clients or secure new customers. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$22.48 |
| | Traffic, Shipping, Receiving Clerks – 10 job openings. Verify and keep records on incoming and outgoing shipments and prepare items for shipment. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.66 |
| | First-Line Supervisors And Managers, Production – 10 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of production and operating workers, such as testers, precision workers, machine setters and operators, assemblers, fabricators, or plant and system operators. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$14.41 |

| Associated Occupations | RETAIL TRADE 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 15.4% |
|------------------------|---|
| | Salespersons, Retail – 100 job openings. Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.49 |
| | Cashiers – 100 job openings. Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.80 |
| | First-Line Supervisor / Manager Sales – 30 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of marketing, sales, and related workers. May perform management functions, such as budgeting, accounting, marketing, and personnel work. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.92 |
| | Stock Clerks, Sales Floor – 20 job openings. Receive, store, and issue sales floor merchandise. Stock shelves, racks, cases, bins, and tables with merchandise and arrange merchandise displays to attract customers. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.29 |
| | Marketing, Advertising, And Public Relations Managers – 10 job openings. Formulate marketing policies, direct sales activities, and plan, organize, and direct advertising and public relations activities for a department, an entire organization, or on an account basis. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$19.50 |

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
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Labor Market Information Division
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